

# WELCOME

*to the Nebraska Prevention Leadership Institute.*

**W**e think you'll find it to be one of the most exciting and unusual learning events of the year! The Institute is sponsored by Nebraska Partners in Prevention (NePiP), a public/private Advisory Council convened by the Governor in 2001 to provide State leadership for reducing substance abuse and improving community outcomes in Nebraska.

As the Institute Agenda, Faculty bios and Session descriptions illustrate, the members and staff of NePiP have worked hard to bring together thought-provoking researchers and policy makers, insiders and innovators, from across the country and throughout the world, to explore the issues involved in effectively identifying and addressing complex social and public health problems.

The one clear lesson learned has been that single sector efforts to address complex issues like substance abuse simply don't work. Instead, comprehensive partnerships engaged in coordinated efforts across sectors at every level are essential. Institute faculty—with expertise in areas such as behavioral health, public health, public policy, media, social psychiatry, community development, nonprofit infrastructure, and governance—will each “shine a light” on these complicated issues through their own unique “lens.” Their shared insights will create a dynamic learning community focused upon this most difficult work of building partnerships and systems to create social change and advance the well-being of people. Plenary sessions will provide information on broad frameworks and learnings that are important for all attendees. General sessions will provide opportunities to participate in smaller, topic-specific sessions according to individual interest.

In some ways, the Institute is a celebration of past successes. Even more importantly, it is a launching point into the future. As you participate in the Institute and its sessions, be sure to make the most of opportunities to become acquainted with other attendees and engage with them in spirited discussion and inquiry. With your help, we hope to initiate new networks and conversations that will continue on long into the future!

***We're glad you're here!***